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Chief of Station, Vienna

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GROOVY/ []

Ferdinand KARPIK []

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REFERENCES: A. DIN 57976
B. VIEW 6357 (IN 94281)
C. VIEW 6343 (IN 92383)

1. Subject was born 11 May 1922 in Poznan, Poland and is now residing at Bad Homburg (near Frankfurt), West Germany. KARPIK has for years been active in large volume East-West trade and is presently director of three companies which engage in this activity: the Donau Handel GmbH, the Atlas Handelsgesellschaft GmbH, and the Fragilament GmbH. He has been implicated by [] as a long-standing UB contact. Headquarters traces do not have any information which confirms his alleged connection with the German Advisory Committee on EEC questions, his part ownership of the Kronen Zeitung, or his residence in Canada as stated in Paragraph 3 of Reference C.

2. ECHA 2393 of 3 November 1955 states that KARPIK was dropped by ODCPAL for compromise but without prejudice in 1948. Our information on his work for ODCPAL is limited to a few sketchy carded references and we know nothing of the nature of KARPIK's work for them. However, they do state that KARPIK was in the resistance movement during World War II and that he met his present business partner, Ferdinand WESTERBARKEY, while they were both in Dachau KZ.

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3. EGMA-51690 of 5 August 1958 contains information from another East-West trader, [redacted], who alleged that he and other West German businessmen strongly suspected that KARPIK was engaged in intelligence activity and illegal financial manipulations for the Poles, in addition to his flourishing import-export business. The dispatch stated that KARPIK and his firm were given highly preferential treatment by the director of the Polish ANIMEX office in West Germany and that KARPIK had, therefore, a complete monopoly in the West import-export market between West Germany and the Satellites. KARPIK's close connections with many bloc personalities, his preferential treatment by bloc enterprises in the West, and his many trips into Poland, Yugoslavia, and the USSR built up a strong case for the allegation that KARPIK was, if not an intelligence operative, at least a front man for illegal bloc financial operations in the West.

4. EGMA-46093 of 24 March 1960. The substance of this dispatch was passed to us from CATIDE. At this time they had a few witting and unwitting sources within Donau Handel and were regularly monitoring the activities of KARPIK. While they had not put a tap on the firm's phones nor made a covert search of the office, they reported that they had satisfied themselves that Donau Handel had US connections and that Leonidas OSIATINSKI [redacted] in whose company KARPIK was often observed to be, was probably the US contact man for Donau Handel. In addition they stated that they had unconfirmed reports that Donau Handel was engaged in "energetic illegal weapons traffic".

5. According to [redacted] information dated prior to December 1960, the Donau Handel firm, as had been suspected all along, was being subsidized by the US beginning about 1952/53, for the purpose of CP funding and agent spotting. However, in 1957 the firm was caught "cheating on contracts" and the US decided to minimize operational contact with the firm. Contact had been minimized by 1959/60.

6. The present status of the firm as a US asset is not clear, as we lack up-to-date information. However, it is evident that KARPIK was at one time a witting US agent, though the degree of control over him is questionable. He has consistently traded on his position as a self-made intermediary between East and West for his own benefit, as he has apparently dealt both ways in intelligence matters as well. He has, to date, been to the United States three times for business reasons in October 1956, September 1962 and January 1963 and speaks fluent English. He is married and is apparently living in some opulence at his Bad Homburg residence.

[redacted]

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